

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 22, 2021

Andy Jassy  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Amazon  
410 Terry Ave North  
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Jassy:

We are writing regarding the EF-3 tornado that caused the collapse of an Amazon warehouse in Edwardsville, IL, on December 10, 2021. While we are thankful that 45 employees were rescued from the collapsed building, we were devastated to learn that the tornado resulted in six fatalities and left one person in critical condition. In the wake of this tragedy, we urge Amazon to evaluate further steps that can be taken to keep employees and independent contractors safe.

There have been concerning reports that some workers in Edwardsville and at other Amazon facilities have not participated in emergency drills or were not aware of Amazon's safety procedures in the event of a tornado. Additionally, reports indicate that not all workers in the facility sheltered in the designated 'safe space' on the north side of the warehouse, despite a tornado warning being issued 11 minutes before the tornado carrying 155 mile per hour winds struck the facility.

We're grateful that fire and rescue crews from at least 20 nearby communities responded quickly after the warehouse in Edwardsville was destroyed. However, their heroic efforts were made more difficult because emergency crews reportedly did not know exactly how many workers were in the facility, which may have been due to Amazon's use of independent contractors.

Unfortunately, severe weather events like the December 10<sup>th</sup> tornadoes may only increase as climate change makes the world's weather patterns more volatile and destructive. Determining the causes of this tragedy will be critical to developing improved safety standards as we confront this reality and work to prevent future loss of life. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced it has opened an investigation into the collapse of the warehouse in Edwardsville. We believe this is a welcome and necessary action.

We also urge you to develop and implement a stronger emergency action plan at Amazon warehouses. This may include actions to ensure employees are receiving emergency information as quickly and accurately as possible; clear evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures and training to ensure employees understand those procedures; and an accurate accounting of how many employees, including independent contractors, are present at Amazon facilities at any given time.

We continue to mourn for those in Illinois and nearby states whose lives were lost and homes were destroyed as a result of this severe weather. Amazon must prioritize the health and safety of its workforce in Illinois and around the country. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



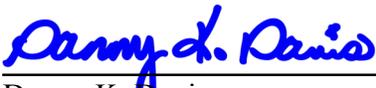
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



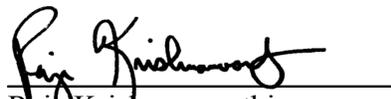
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress